

HOME PREPARATION 1

Topic 2 - Interpersonal Relationships

Study the following vocabulary and make sure that you understand all of them before attending consultation 2:

35 Relationships

A Types of relationships

Here is a scale showing closeness and distance in relationships in different contexts.

	CLOSER ←	↔	→	MORE DISTANT
<i>friendship:</i>	best friend	good friend	friend	acquaintance
<i>work:</i>	close colleague		colleague/workmate	
<i>love/romance:</i>	lover	steady boy/girlfriend		ex-*
<i>marriage:</i>	wife/husband/partner			ex-*

* ex- can be used with or without (informally) another word: She's my ex. (girlfriend, etc.)

Mate is a colloquial word for a good friend. It can also be used in compounds to describe a person you share something with, e.g. **classmate**, **shipmate**, **workmate**, **flatmate**.

Workmate is usual in non-professional contexts; colleague is more common among professional people.

Fiancé/ée can still be used for someone you are engaged to, but a lot of people feel it is dated nowadays. You will sometimes see **husband-/wife-to-be** in journalistic style.

English has no universally accepted word for 'person I live with but am not married to', but **partner** is probably the commonest.

B Liking and not liking someone

<i>core verb</i>	<i>positive</i>	<i>negative</i>
like	love adore worship idolise	dislike hate can't stand loathe
respect	look up to admire	look down on despise
attract	turn s.b. on	repel turn s.b. off
be attracted to	fancy	

She doesn't just like Bob she idolises him! I can't stand him.

I really fancy Lisa, but her friend just turns me off.

Fancy and turn off are informal. Repel is very strong and rather formal.

C Phrases and idioms for relationships

Jo and I **get on well with each other**. [have a good relationship]

Adrian and Liz **don't see eye to eye**. [often argue/disagree]

I've **fallen out with** my parents again. [had arguments]

Tony and Jane have **broken up / split up**. [ended their relationship]

George is **having an affair** with his boss. [a sexual relationship, usually secret]

Children should respect **their elders**. [adults/parents, etc.]

Let's try and **make it up**. [be friends again after a row]

She's my **junior** / I'm her **senior** / I'm **senior to her**, so she does what she's told. [refers to position/length of service at work]

(See Unit 69 for more words relating to likes and dislikes.)

44 Describing character

A Opposites

Many positive words describing character have clear opposites with a negative meaning.

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
warm and friendly	cold and unfriendly
kind	unkind
nice, pleasant	horrible, unpleasant
generous (= happy to give/share)	mean (= never gives to others)
optimistic (= thinks positively)	pessimistic (= thinks negatively)
cheerful (= happy and smiling)	miserable (= always seems unhappy)
relaxed and easy-going	tense (= nervous; worries a lot; not calm)
strong	weak
sensitive	insensitive (= does not think about others' feelings)
honest (= always tells the truth)	dishonest

Jane is very **tense** at the moment because of her exams, but she's usually quite **relaxed** and **easy-going** about most things.

I think the weather influences me a lot: when it's sunny I feel more **cheerful** and **optimistic**; but when it's cold and raining I get very **miserable**.

He seemed a bit **unfriendly** at first, but now I've got to know him I realise he's very **warm** and **kind**.

The shop assistant told me that the dress I tried on looked better on people younger than me. I thought that was very **insensitive** of her, but at least she was being **honest**, I suppose.

B Character in action

People often talk about qualities of character that you may need in a work situation. Again, some of these words come in pairs of opposites: one positive and one negative.

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
hard-working	lazy (= never does any work)
punctual (=always on time)	not very punctual; always late
reliable	unreliable (= you cannot trust / depend on someone like this)
clever, bright (<i>infml</i>)	stupid, thick (<i>infml</i>)
flexible	inflexible (= a very fixed way of thinking; unable to change)
ambitious	unambitious (= no desire to be successful and get a better job)

Some pairs of opposites do not have a particularly positive or negative meaning:

He is very **shy** when you first meet him because he finds it difficult to talk to people and make conversation; but when he knows people quite well he's much more **self-confident**.

People often say the British are very **reserved** (= do not show their feelings), but when you get to know them they can be very **emotional** like anyone else.

C Using nouns

Some important qualities are expressed through nouns.

One of her great qualities is that she **uses her initiative**. (= she can think for herself and take the necessary action; she does not need to wait for orders all the time)

That boy has got no **common sense** (= he does stupid things and doesn't think what he is doing). His sister, on the other hand, is very **sensible**. (= has lots of **common sense**)